Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0013] with the following amended paragraph:

[0013]   Soft and softer handover have implementation problems in TDD/CDMA communication systems. Current TDD/CDMA systems do not support the simultaneous decoding of signals from multiple cells by the wireless user 24 or multiple base stations simultaneously decoding signals from one wireless user 24. These limitations occur since time slot synchronization between cells is not guaranteed and each cell has its own cell specific scrambling code for the uplink and downlink. Multi-user detection (MUD) receivers, utilized in such systems, are configured to only detect signals ~~send~~ <u>sent</u> using one cell specific scrambling code at a time.

Please replace paragraph [0015] with the following amended paragraph:

[0015]   Since handover occurs at the edges of cells 20 or sectors 26, the signal quality in the handover area tends to be poorer than other areas of the cell. The use of soft/softer handover allows for a diversity<u>.</u> The term diversity includes all diversity schemes including selection diversity) gain to compensate for the poorer signal conditions. Hard handover does not allow for such gains. Accordingly, it is desirable to use soft/softer handover in TDD/CDMA communication systems.

When the application was filed, a paragraph between paragraphs [0029] and [0030] was inadvertently not numbered. Please number this paragraph [0029.1] and replace it with the following amended paragraph:

[0029.1]   In the ~~advent where~~ <u>event</u> the two cells involved in the soft handover ~~would~~ have different downlink/uplink timeslot allocations, the F-DCA should preferably not consider the timeslots that are used in different directions by the two

- 2 -

cells when allocating timeslots resources to the WRTU in soft handover. For example, if slot 1 is used on the uplink in cell 1 20_1 and on the downlink in cell 2 20_2, that slot should preferably not be considered for a user in soft handover. Conversely, if slot 1 is used on the downlink in cell 1 20_1 and on the uplink in cell 2 20_2, that slot should preferably not be considered for a user in soft handover. Optionally, the F-DCA should give a lower priority to timeslots that are used in different directions by the two cells when allocating timeslot resources to the WRTU in soft/softer handover.

Please replace paragraph [0030] with the following amended paragraph:

[0030]   Using the assigned codes/timeslots, the WTRU performs soft/softer handover (step 32). ~~To using~~ Referring to Figure 1, the wireless user 24 is being handed-over from cell 1 20_1 to cell 2 20_2. In cell 1 20_1, the user 24 utilizes timeslot 1 for the uplink and timeslot 2 for the downlink. F-DCA assigns the user 24 timeslot 3 for the uplink and timeslot 4 for the downlink for cell 2 20_2. During soft handover, the user communicates in the uplink to cell 1 20_1 using timeslot 1 and cell 2 20_2 using timeslot 3 and in the downlink to cell 1 20_1 using timeslot 2 and cell 2 20_2 using timeslot 4.

Please replace paragraph [0041] with the following amended paragraph:

[0041]   After passing through the air interface 38, an antenna or antenna array 64 at the WTRU 34 receives the transmitted signals from each sector 84. The received signals pass through a duplexer or switch 72 to a joint detection device 76. Each sector's downlink data is detected by the joint detector 76 in its respective time slot. The soft symbols of the detected downlink data from each of the N timeslots is stored in a buffer 80. Each version of the ~~deetected~~ detected soft

- 3 -

symbols of the detected data received in the N timeslots are then preferably combined by a combiner 82 to produce the downlink data. Alternately, instead of combining, the sector data having the best received quality is selected. The buffering and combining is controlled by a softer handover controller 78.

Please replace paragraph [0043] with the following amended paragraph:

[0043] Each sector's antenna or antenna array 88 receives the uplink transmissions. These received signals pass through a duplexer or switch 98 to a joint detector 100_1 to 100_N (100), which recovers the uplink data. The data produced by each joint detector 100 is stored in a buffer 102. A combiner 104 ~~combiners~~ combines the recovered uplink data from both sectors at the symbol level. The combiner 104 and buffer 102 are controlled by a softer handover controller 106.

Please replace paragraph [0046] with the following amended paragraph:

[0046] The two metrics are compared to determine whether soft/softer handover should be performed (step 116). To illustrate, if a perspective handover cell has a high congestion and the anticipated soft handover gain is small, soft handover is not initiated. Alternately, if the perspective handover cell is ~~light~~ lightly congested and the soft handover gain is large, soft handover is initiated.